(b) the progress achieved by the State in setting up of the Agencies at the grass root level?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Respective Forest Divisions have been advised by the Kerala State Forest Department to constitute the Forest Protection Committee, which are the primary constituents of Forest Development Agencies.

Sanctuaries as National Parks in Andhra Pradesh

1362. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to declare sanctuaries in Andhra Pradesh as National Parks;

(b) if so, the sanctuaries selected in the State for such upgradation;

(c) the time schedule for completing the formalities;

(d) whether the State Government has made any other suggestions in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The State Governments are competent to set up national parks and sanctuaries in accordance with the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Diseases due to pollution

†1363. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that air in metro cities/cities/towns has not only become polluted but poisonous also;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that not only common men, but neo-natal children have been found to be suffering from heart ailments; and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(d) if so, what effective steps Government are taking to protect against the future impending calamity?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The air quality in most of the metropolitan cities indicate that the annual average of sulphur dioxide and oxides of nitrogen normally remained well within the prescribed limit whereas the suspended particulate matter is exceeding the prescribed ambient air quality standards at few locations. No conclusive data is available to establish the co-relationship between the increasing trend of air pollution and incidence of heart ailments in children.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to control the air pollution include the following:—

(i) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated.

(ii) Environmental Epidemiological Studies have been initiated in the different parts of the country to assess the impact of pollution on human health and suggest mitigative measures;

(iii) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments including Delhi.

(iv) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in major cities.

(v) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi to cater to the CNG vehicles.

(vi) Benzene concentration in petrol has been reduced.

(vii) A network of 290 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations has been set up throughout the country.

(viii) Emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.

(ix) Steps have been taken to control of pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries.

(x) Industries are also required to install necessary pollution control equipments before commissioning of their plants.

(xi) Industries are required to take consent from the respective State Pollution Control Board under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Supreme Court target for cleaning Yamuna river

1364. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Supreme Court had set a target for cleaning up of the Yamuna river;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what progress has been made in implementation of the plan, formulated by Government for the purpose.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Supreme Court in CWP No. 725/1994 vide its order dated 11.04.2001 has directed that steps be taken so as to ensure that minimum desired water quality *i.e.* of class 'C' be obtained in River Yamuna at least by March 31, 2003.

(c) The progress made in the implementation of the plan along with the proposed actions is as follows:—

(i) *Augmentation of Sewage treatment capacity:* The installed capacity of the STP has been augmented from 1290 million litre per day in 1995 to 2190 million litre per day. It is targeted to be increased to 2258 million litre per day by March, 2002 and further to 2326 million litre per day by September, 2002. The sewage treatment capacity is proposed to be augmented to 3225 million litre per day by 10th Five Year Plan. These plants are to be designed to meet better standards *i.e.* Biological Oxygen Demand of 10 milligram per litre, suspended solids of 15 milligram per litre and coliforms less than 1,000 *MPN/100 millilitre.